

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 532

By Finney

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Sam Houston Historic
Schoolhouse Guild of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those organizations that are dedicated to protecting and preserving those monuments in Tennessee of historical importance; and

WHEREAS, the Sam Houston Historic Schoolhouse Guild in Maryville is one such organization, and its members are wholly committed to preserving a building of historical impact and providing a window that looks 200 years into Tennessee's past; and

WHEREAS, in 1812, Sam Houston, in an effort to pay a debt amassed accumulating gifts for his adopted Cherokee tribe, taught "reading, ciphering, and the ways of the Indians" to schoolchildren in the City of Maryville; and

WHEREAS, the following year, Sam Houston opened his own school in a building on John McCulloch's farm; he charged students eight dollars per term and, proving to be a popular teacher, had to turn several prospective students away; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Houston taught only two terms in the log cabin schoolhouse; his career as a teacher was interrupted by the outbreak of the War of 1812. Sam Houston enlisted in the military, and his bravery in battle and war-hardened fortitude gained the attention of Major General Andrew Jackson during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend; and

WHEREAS, after the completion of the war, Sam Houston would become one of this State's and this Nation's finest leaders; he served as the Attorney General for the Nashville District prior to being elected from Andrew Jackson's Democratic Party as Tennessee's Ninth District Congressman in 1823, was elected as Governor of Tennessee in 1827, abandoned the political realm to once again become a citizen of the Cherokee Nation in 1829, gained a land

grant in a Texas colony in 1832, served as a delegate at the Texas Convention, which culminated in the state's declaration of independence from Mexico, was appointed as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Republic of Texas in 1836, was elected as President of the Republic of Texas later that same year, was elected as a State Senator following Texas' admission into the United States, and served as Governor of Texas before his deposition in 1861; and

WHEREAS, when later asked, Sam Houston would reply that his term as a teacher in a small log school in northeast Tennessee bestowed upon him his greatest sense of pride and achievement, saying "I experienced a higher feeling of dignity and self-satisfaction than from any office or honor which I have since held."; and

WHEREAS, in the years since the State of Tennessee purchased the building in 1943, the Sam Houston Memorial Association has, with the aid and assistance of the Sam Houston Historic School Guild since 1995, worked diligently to preserve the authenticity of the school in which Sam Houston taught and, through their efforts, have given to Tennesseans, Americans, and visitors from around the world an honest and enlightening experience of nineteenth-century settler life, and its members' perseverance, devotion to duty, and appreciation of the life and times of Sam Houston should be properly recognized and roundly applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we formally recognize the Sam Houston Historic Schoolhouse Guild for its dedication to preserving the site on which one of this State's finest citizens engaged in educating and edifying the young and offer our heartfelt commendations to its members for the countless hours they have spent and will continue to spend ensuring the sanctity of the site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.